



American Citizen Services U.S. MISSION TO INDONESIA

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Special points of interest:

- New Consul General Kim Kelly arrives in Jakarta.
- Prepare early for voting season.
- Extra pages for passports no longer available after 2016.

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ACS Newsletter Summer 2015

Last chance for extra passport pages!

In an effort to enhance the security of passports and abide by international passport standards, **after December 31, 2015**, extra page inserts will no longer be added to U.S. passports. Instead, 52-page passport books will be issued at no extra cost to U.S. citizens applying from outside the United States.

Renew your U.S. passport early to make sure you have enough blank pages in your passport for visa stamps. Most countries, including Indonesia, require two blank pages for entry and exit. Please see www.travel.state.gov for more information on entry, exit, and foreign visa requirements.



In order to schedule an appointment to renew your U.S. passport or request additional pages, please make an appointment [online](#).

Election 2016 -- Voter Registration and Absentee Voting

As we enter a new election cycle this summer, American Citizen Services would like to encourage all overseas residents to apply for voter registration and, register for Absentee Ballot Voting. Voting in both local and national elections is a right ingrained in the history of our nation. As a U.S. citizen, you can have your say, regardless of where you live. If you are a U.S. Citizen who has voted in previous elections, you will need to follow the instructions provided in the Absentee Ballot voting section be-

low. If you have never voted, refer to the Voter Registration section found below.



Welcome Consul General Kim Kelly!

*"A journey is
best measured in
friends, rather
than miles." –
Tim Cahill*

Selamat Datang! My name is Kim Kelly and I am the new Consul General at the U.S. Embassy Jakarta and Country Consular Coordinator for Indonesia. While I am originally from Houston, Texas, my career as a Foreign Service Officer has taken me from The Gambia in West Africa, to Cuba, Washington DC, Ireland, Mexico, Argentina, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and now Indonesia. I speak Spanish, Texan, and am learning Bahasa Indonesia.

Before I joined the Department of State, I worked in retail management, and I studied photojournalism and political science at the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, where I met my husband, Michael, who is a writer, educator, and stay-at-home dad. We have two great kids – Christine, a 10th grader, and Matthew, an 8th grader – and a dog, whom the kids insisted I include in these remarks.

This is our first time in Indonesia, and we have found everyone here to be friendly and welcoming. We are looking forward to exploring Indonesia, though I am looking for a way to teleport rather than sit through the traffic to travel! While others might not like the heat and humidity, this Texas girl is right at home. The only thing I have found missing thus far is some good old American Football – GO TEXANS!

I love being a Consular Officer because what we do matters. We touch lives every single day. We help people realize their dreams of travel through tourist visas, we reunite families through the immigrant visa process, and we assist Americans living and working overseas in a variety of ways - documenting new Americans, helping those who become destitute, visiting the incarcerated, and so much more. There are Consular Officers around the world who have similar stories of the lives that they have seen touched by the work that is done in Embassy across the world. As an American living overseas myself, I always take great joy assisting others abroad.

Absentee Ballot Voting

As a U.S citizen residing abroad in Indonesia, you will need to fill out an Absentee Ballot every new election cycle. You must register and request an absentee ballot in your State of legal residence by completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and submit it to your local election office. Depending on the laws of your given state of residence, You may use the Federal Write-in Ballot (FWAB) to cast your absentee ballot, register to vote or request fu-

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Voter Registration



"The efforts of the Government alone will never be enough. In the end, the people must choose and the people must help themselves".
John F. Kennedy

If you are a citizen who is voting for the very first time, you are required to fill out a voter registration form. Depending on the laws of your state of residency, you may be able to fill out the Federal Write-In-Ballot to register. If this is not an option, click [here](#) to fill out and download a voter registration application. Specific instructions and mailing addresses per

state are included in the downloadable form.

Registering with the Embassy via STEP

We encourage all U.S. citizens planning to travel or currently residing overseas to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). Enrolling allows the Embassy where you are travelling and the State Department in Washington to provide you with up to date travel warnings and security alerts to ensure your safety. STEP will allow you to enter information about your upcoming travel plans so that the Department of State can better assist you in case of an emergency. STEP will also allow U.S. citizens residing abroad to receive routine information and security updates from their nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate. The service, entirely free, is an excellent tool in ensuring you are always fully aware of the travel risks at hand wherever you travel. For additional information, visit <https://step.state.gov>.





Consulate Surabaya holds town hall meeting in Ubud

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Town hall meetings are one of the unique features of American democracy. They are a place where issues can be discussed and debated and where the public can raise their concerns to leaders and other community members. U.S. Embassies and Consulates around the world try to emulate these traditions by organizing town halls meetings to inform U.S. citizens about U.S. government programs in the host country and to listen to the concerns and challenges that residents face living abroad. This week the Surabaya Consular Section and the Bali Consular Agency led a town hall in Ubud, the heart of the Balinese art scene, to introduce myself – the new Consul in Surabaya and our new Consul General, Heather Variava. Heather and I were thrilled that the event attracted more than sixty participants and amazed at the diversity of backgrounds within the American community in Bali. During our discussions we met dive operators, retirees, teachers, and many people who manage a variety of businesses – from flower stores, to handmade ceramic factories, to internationally awarded massage therapy spas. American entrepreneurship is alive in Bali.

Our Consul General in Surabaya also took the opportunity to discuss the organization of the U.S. government in Indonesia. Led by Ambassador Robert Blake, the U.S. government's responsibilities are divided into two consular districts. The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta oversees USG issues in western Java, Sumatra, Papua and East Timor while the U.S. Consulate in Surabaya manages concerns in mostly eastern Indonesia up to (but not including) Papua. Within this large area that has an estimated 80 million people, the Bali Consular Agency works cooperatively with Consulate Surabaya to provide timely and important consular services to American visitors and residents in Bali.

During our Q&A session, audience participants raised a number of concerns, some highlighted in this newsletter. The Surabaya Consulate welcomes input and recommendations from U.S. citizens. Please let us know if there are other areas in our consular district that could benefit from a town hall meeting with a consular officer. We are always pleased to meet members of the American community in Indonesia and to see if there are ways we can improve our services and address your concerns. Please let us know at ConsularSurabaya@state.gov.

Work in INDONESIA

[Learn More](#)

How can I Work in Indonesia?

If a foreign worker plans to receive income in Indonesia, they must obtain a sponsor in Indonesia and obtain a working permit from the Ministry of Manpower. Not all employment positions are open to foreigners and restrictions apply. Indonesia has strict immigration requirements and the rules are sometimes applied inconsistently. For example, volunteering and unpaid work is generally not allowable on a tourist visa although sometimes it is not enforced. There is no such thing as a “workshop visa.” To avoid immigration problems, a foreign worker or volunteer should be as open as possible with the kind of work that will be performed to avoid immigration problems.

“For my part, I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I travel for travel’s sake. The great affair is to move.” – Robert Louis Stevenson

Why is the Embassy and Consulate less accessible today than before?

Due to worldwide acts of terrorism against U.S. Missions, the U.S. government has enhanced our security and procedures. U.S. citizens visiting embassies and consulates are required to undergo a security screening process and should arrive at the embassy or consulate with photo identification. Appointments are necessary for most services, except in urgent and emergency situa-

Do I need to pay my U.S. taxes if I live overseas?

Yes. If you are a U.S. citizen and you live abroad, you are taxed on your worldwide income. However, you may qualify for a foreign income exclusion (\$100,800 for 2015). There are two tests to see if you qualify for this income exclusion – the bona fide resident test and the physical presence test. To see if you qualify for the foreign earned income exclusion you should visit IRS.gov.

If my foreign spouse’s passport is expired but her visa is still good, can she travel if she gets a new passport?

Yes, as long as the U.S. visa is still valid, he or she can travel to the United States by carrying the new passport and the old passport (with the valid visa). If the spouse wants to have a new visa placed in the new passport, a new visa application will have to be done.

Why I am not allowed to attend the visa interview of my foreign spouse?

Per standard worldwide practice, no third parties are permitted to attend the nonimmigrant visa interview. This rule also applies to third parties who are U.S. Citizens or Legal Permanent Residents.





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**HAVE YOU
REGISTERED?**

STEP.STATE.GOV

Visiting Indonesia? Immigration tips

You will need a passport valid for at least six months following the date of your arrival to Indonesia. The U.S. Embassy cannot obtain entry permission for U.S. citizens with expiring passports. If you arrive and your passport has less than six month's validity, Indonesian authorities will require you to depart Indonesia immediately to obtain a new U.S. passport elsewhere; you will not be allowed to renew your passport here and follow-up later with Indonesian authorities. Also, if your passport does not have the required six month's validity remaining on your passport, you may be denied boarding at your point of origin or at a transit point en route. Generally, you should expect to wait two weeks for a U.S. passport to be issued outside of the United States. Please visit www.travel.state.gov for detailed information.

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Social Security : Sign Up for Direct Deposit

As of July 2015, Standard Chartered Bank in Indonesia is no longer able to cash your Social Security benefit check in cash advance due to new regulations from Indonesian Bank (BI). Regarding this matter, we are strongly suggesting those who received their benefits by paper check in Indonesia to sign up for direct deposit. Please contact Social Security Office in Manila : fbu.manila@ssa.gov for further details.

